

TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

403 Seventh Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37243

WORKSHOP SERIES



USING OBITUARIES AND DEATH RECORDS IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Presented by Gregory G. Poole



February 28, 2009
10:00AM until Noon



When doing genealogical research one of the first things genealogists or anyone searching for their ancestors should do is find clues in obituaries and death records. Obituaries and death records are hidden gems of information about people. They are the final report on the life of an individual and contain details about that person's life that may not appear anywhere else. Obituaries often contain names of family members, location of birth, church affiliation and other insights into an ancestor's life. The workshop is **free** and open to the public.

This workshop will cover the basics of using obituaries and death records in genealogical research. Some of the topics included are:

- What are obituaries and death records and how to find them
- A brief history of the obituary in American culture and social history
- Interpreting the obituary and death record, including a discussion of common medical terminology, and relating information found in an obituary with other kinds of genealogical records
- The best websites about obituaries
- Other non-traditional sources for obituaries

Gregory G. Poole is an Archivist II at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, Tennessee. Among his publications are two books he authored dealing with obituaries: *Robertson County Obituaries and Death Records, 1825-1950*, and *Cheatham County Obituary and Death Records, 1840-1950*.

Those wishing to attend the workshop must contact TSLA to reserve a seat as the number of attendees is limited. Reservations can be made via e-mail to workshop.tsla@state.tn.us. Patrons can also register by telephone by calling 615-741-2764. Parking is available in front, on the side, and in back of the Library and Archives building.